

REMARKS

The Office Action dated July 20, 2006 has been carefully reviewed.

Claims 1-17 are pending in this patent application. By this amendment, claims 1, 8, 9, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, and 17 have been canceled, claims 2 and 10 have been amended. Reconsideration of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 2-7 and 10 were objected to but were indicated to be allowable if rewritten in independent form and to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claim. Such rewriting has been done in accord with the Examiner's suggestion. Thus, claims 2-7 and 10 are believed to be in proper form for allowance.

35 U.S.C. § 103 Rejections

Claims 1, 8, 9, and 11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over certain combinations of the following references: Nott et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,354,682); Nichols (U.S. Patent No. 4,874,211); and Steadman (U.S. Publication 2002/0084732). By this amendment, claims 1, 8, 9, and 11 have been canceled.

Withdrawn Claims 12-17

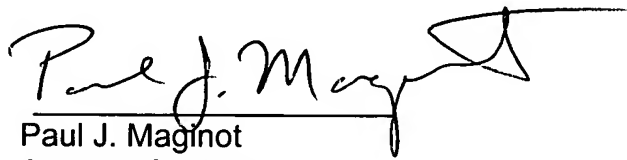
Claims 12-17 had been previously withdrawn from consideration. By this amendment, claim 12-17 have been canceled.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Action to that end is hereby solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Paul J. Maginot", with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

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